14 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 14 May 1969

DD/I noted that the NSC will not meet on <u>U. S. Trade Policy Toward Communist Countries</u> (NSSM No. 35) but that he is in receipt of a letter from the White House requesting written comments on the topic. The Director noted the item in today's <u>Washington Post</u> reporting that there will be a joint NSC/Cabinet meeting at 1000 tomorrow. DD/I commented that he will check to confirm this information and to determine the purposes of the meeting.

D/ONE reported that he will be meeting with an individual from DOD/Systems Analysis who is probably interested in how better to mesh the Estimate calendar with DOD resource planning. The Director asked to be informed of what DOD has to contribute on this matter.

DD/S mentioned that the bus stop in the front of the building does not provide the necessary protection from the elements and outlined plans to place a glass partition at the rear of the covered shelter. The Director concurred.

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Carver noted that the radio is reporting that some three hundred civilians were KIA in Danang but commented that the evidence of local civilian deaths is more in the range of thirty.

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Maury reported that he was in touch with Frank Slatinsheck and emphasized to him that reconnaissance missions receive the prior approval of the 303 Committee and the JRC machinery. In view of this he was advised that Congressman Pike will not pursue his request for a review or briefing on these matters.

Maury noted that he now has in hand data on intelligence installations abroad as requested by Senator Symington. (See Morning Meeting Minutes of 8 May 1969.) After some discussion the Director noted that he would first like to establish in principle how best to react to Senator Symington's request and asked Maury to make an appointment for him with Senator Russell. The Director commented that he will review the list of installations following his meeting with Senator Russell.

Parrott noted that PFIAB is scheduled to meet on 22-23 May. He briefed on and distributed the agenda (attached).

Chamberlain for DD/S&T reported that Soviet missile ships are headed for the Pacific test range.

DD/P briefed on a report of a Polish ambassadors' conference in Cambodia.

The Director noted receipt of a letter from Senator Proxmire requesting the economic data which may have caused him to observe in his Hot Springs speech that costs of adequate defense may prove impossible for the United States and Soviet Union to bear and therefore provide common ground for steps toward arms control. The Director asked the DD/I and Maury to consult with him on how best to respond to Senator Proxmire's request.

The Director expressed his concern about how best to respond to Senator Ervin's invitation to provide alternate draft legislation to his bill. He cautioned against any further correspondence with the Senator which might offend him and asked Houston to draft an appropriate response. The Director noted receipt of a telephone call from Senator Symington suggesting that we look at a transcript of Dr. Foster's testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday.

L. K. White

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Release 2005/11/23

President Summ **Lodge From Paris**

address the Nation at 10 next round of talks on Frio'clock tonight on the prospects. for peace in Vietnam, yesterday summoned home Henry Cabot Lodge, chief American negotiator at the Paris talks, for new instructions.

President also The nounced that he would hold a in the East Wing. joint Cabinet-National Security Council meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday for further discussion of proposals he is expected to outline in his ad-

Lodge, who will arrive here this afternoon, will attend the Cabinet-NSC meeting

President Nixon, who will then return to Paris for the day. The President conferred Monday with Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, the American commander in Vietnam.

The President's address will be carried live by all major broadcasting networks. He will speak from the White House theater, a small room

Lodge has already seen a draft of the President's speech and given the White House comments upon it. The text likewise was sent to Saigon and shown to the South Vietnamese government by Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, who held two 90-minute meetings with President Nguyen Van Thieu and sent his comments to Washington.

The speech, the first draft of which was written about two weeks ago, is designed to move the negotiations off dead center, officials said.

They discounted widely published reports that it also was designed to calm public discontent at home over the lack of progress toward a Vietnamese settlement.

The address also is expected to contain a response to the 10-point peace plan the Vietcong proposed in Paris last Thursday.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Lodge would not see the President before the broadcast but would meet with him later to consider new negotiating procedures in light of the address.

Ziegler emphasized that the President would not announce troop withdrawals or a breakthrough in Paris. But he billed the address as a "major" one with "new material" that will be of "great interest."

See TALKS, A12, Col. 6

Nixon Calls Lodge In me From Paris

TALKS, From A1

Meanwhile, an Administration official offered at a State Department background conference a definition of what is considered to be at stake in Vietnam. Under the rules of the conference the official cannot be named.

He said that what is at stake, in the view of the Nixon Administration, is the credibility of the United States commitment, specifically the opportunity for South Vietnamese self-determination. Secretary of State William P. Rogers recently said that this right of self-determination is "the core of the issue in Vietnam.'

The official went on to add that whether or not the original American commitment in Vietnam was justified is no longer of central importance. The question now, he said, is how can the United States extricate itself without abandoning the commitment.

The official said the Administration is prepared to take any step which would lead to peace short of abandoning the people of South Vietnam to the military force of North Vietnam, a move which would leave the South Vietnamese no opportunity for self-determination.

The official also said he questioned what he termed the relevancy of Munich to Vietnam, a reference to former Secretary of State Dean Rusk's oft-stated belief that those who would abandon Vietnam were as blind as those who accepted the pre-World War II Munich agreement with Hitler to carve up Czechoslovakia.